

Edgewood

Fall 2002

Contact Us

Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office

1011 B Woodbridge
Center Way
Edgewood, MD 21040
(410) 676-6800

Outreach Office Hours

Monday–Friday
8:30 a.m.–5 p.m.
Other hours by appointment

ABCDF

Public Affairs Office
(410) 436-5253

Bechtel Aberdeen Public Outreach Office

(410) 436-9507

Ceremony marks neutralization facility's end of construction

If you build it, they
will come.

That's what the Army and its Bechtel teams hoped for when construction was completed on the accelerated Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility just five days before the anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks. And come they did. On Sept. 6, more than 200 dignitaries, workers and citizens gathered at the Edgewood Area of Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md., to witness a ribbon cutting ceremony commemorating the completion of the neutralization facility.

"What we are here to commemorate this morning is, in reality, one small but important component of our nation's response to the infamy of the Sept. 11 attacks," said Army Site Project Manager Joseph Lovrich. "As Americans across the country rose to meet the challenge of this new threat, so did the men and women of the ABCDF team, with the unwavering support of our larger Army family, our Harford County community, and our great State of Maryland."

Construction of the original disposal facility began in June 1999 and was more than 50 percent complete when the terrorist attacks occurred. The Army and its systems contractor, Bechtel Aberdeen, immediately focused on the safest, most effective way to speed up the destruction process. In February 2002, after receiving approval from Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics E.C. "Pete" Aldridge, the accelerated disposal project known as "Speedy Neut" officially got underway.



Photo by Army Corps of Engineers

From left, Joseph Lovrich, Army Site Project Manager; George Englessen, Maryland Citizens' Advisory Commission Co-Chairman; Dr. Mario P. Fiori, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Installations and Environment); Gen. Paul J. Kern, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command; Kevin Flamm, Army Project Manager for Alternative Technologies and Approaches; Douglas Richmond, Harford County Division of Emergency Operations; and Lee Smith, Bechtel Aberdeen Project Manager, prepare to cut the ribbon during the Sept. 6, 2002, ceremony.

"We need to say 'Well Done' to Aberdeen's construction crews and technical teams, and also to our partners in other government organizations and in our community who have played such an integral part in accelerating the disposal of Aberdeen Proving Ground's chemical stockpile," said Project Manager for Alternative Technologies and Approaches Kevin Flamm. "Your presence here today is a tribute to the teamwork that has made possible this very special occasion and will ultimately bring this project to a safe and successful conclusion two years ahead of its original schedule."

The newly completed state-of-the-art facility will undergo an intensive, six-month testing period before mustard agent disposal operations begin in March 2003. Neutralization of the mustard agent is expected to be complete six months later in fall 2003. Currently, construction of the ton container clean out area and other remaining portions of the disposal facility remains on track.

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U.S. Army
Program
Manager
for Chemical
Demilitarization
PMCD

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*—Delbert F. Bunch,
PMCD Deputy
Program Manager*

Welcome our new Deputy Program Manager



Delbert F. Bunch became PMCD's Deputy Program Manager in June 2002.

With more than 30 years of acquisition and project management experience, Delbert F. Bunch brings a wealth of expertise to the chemical weapons disposal program as PMCD's new Deputy Program Manager.

Since his appointment to the position in June,

Mr. Bunch has been actively learning the intricacies of the Army's complex disposal mission. As part of this effort, his first priority is to visit each of the stockpile sites to meet local citizens and gain

first-hand experience with the program. Mr. Bunch explained, "I look forward to meeting with local citizens and hearing their concerns. It will be a perfect opportunity for me to better understand the local perspectives on destroying these weapons swiftly and safely."

Mr. Bunch's current Department of Defense work mirrors his previous service for the Department of Energy, where his focus was on nuclear rather than chemical issues. Specifically, as the department's Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Nuclear Energy, he directly was responsible for programs such as nuclear waste cleanup. He also served as the department's Deputy Assistant Secretary for Safety, Health and Quality Assurance, where he oversaw national and international nuclear programs. As proof of his expertise, the secretary of energy designated Mr. Bunch as the lead technical representative in the White House task force on the Chernobyl, Soviet Union accident in 1986.

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*—Daniel Civis,
Chief of FEMA's
chemical
preparedness
branch,
Washington, D.C.
agency headquarters*

Harford County CSEPP Manager receives national award

The Federal Emergency Management Agency recently recognized the outstanding contributions of Douglas Richmond of Bel Air, Md., who manages the Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program at Harford County's Division of Emergency Operations. Richmond received the award signed by FEMA Director Joe M. Allbaugh at the program's national conference in Lexington, Ky. More than 400 emergency officials attended the annual conference of the joint Army-FEMA program.

"This is the second year that we've recognized people at the national conference," said Daniel Civis, chief of FEMA's chemical preparedness branch at the agency headquarters in Washington, D.C. "From my perspective it's an impressive award, and that's why we limit the number given."

Richmond was lauded for his "dedication to duty, cooperative leadership and exemplary service" that "places Harford County at the vanguard of both community preparedness and program closeout issues."

Maryland is expected to be the first state to neutralize its chemical agent stockpile, currently scheduled for fall 2003. The Army's chemical weapons stockpile stored on Johnston Atoll in the Pacific was safely eliminated in 2000.



Photo by Army Corps of Engineers

Project Manager for Alternative Technologies and Approaches Kevin Flamm, right, thanks Douglas Richmond of Harford County's Division of Emergency Operations, left, and Sue Willits of Kent County's Emergency Management Agency (foreground) for their support of the accelerated project. Richmond represented the Maryland Chemical Stockpile Emergency Preparedness Program that includes Aberdeen Proving Ground, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Maryland Emergency Management Agency, Baltimore County, Harford County and Kent County as an official ribbon cutter at the Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's end of construction ceremony.

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End of construction milestone reached

"This project is about safety and it is about people teamed together who can accomplish the most difficult and demanding of missions. I am very proud to be part of this team," said Bechtel Aberdeen Project Manager Lee Smith.

Noting the guidance of President George W. Bush, Dr. Mario P. Fiori, Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment, remarked, "The President said, 'If we wait for the threats to materialize, we will have waited too long. The only path to safety is the path of action.' So, while the original neutralization facility was robust and state of the art, after Sept. 11, your challenge was to find a new path of action, one that would lead this community to safety by accelerating our program and eliminating the risk sooner."

To signify construction completion of the neutralization facility, Fiori; Flamm; Lovrich; Smith; Gen. Paul J. Kern, Commanding General, U.S. Army Materiel Command; Maryland Citizens' Advisory Commission Co-Chairman George Englesson and Douglas Richmond of Harford County's Division of Emergency Operations cut the ceremonial ribbon. Robert P. Rizzieri of the Army Corps of Engineers then officially declared the facility open for inspection.



Photo by Army Corps of Engineers

Ginny Samuel, left, poses for a photo with her family in the neutralization bay of the facility dedicated to her late husband, John Samuel. Pictured from left to right are Mrs. Samuel, daughter Carolyn, mother Anne Poindexter, daughter Anne, and son-in-law Leith Kuhn.

At the conclusion of the ceremony, guests including Ginny Samuel, wife of the late John B. Samuel, an Army chemist for whom the disposal facility was dedicated in 1999, and her family, walked through the facility to learn about the process and see the equipment that workers soon will use to make chemical weapons history.

"I think John would be very proud of this facility and all that will be accomplished through its operations," remarked Mrs. Samuel. "It's very impressive and I know he would be very pleased with everything we've seen here today."

"This project is about safety and it is about people teamed together who can accomplish the most difficult and demanding of missions. I am very proud to be part of this team."

—Lee Smith,
Bechtel Aberdeen
Project Manager



Photo by Nancy Hofmann

Party on the Bay

At this year's Party on the Bay in Rock Hall, Md., Miguel Monteverde of Bechtel Aberdeen (far left) and Sue Willits of Kent County's Emergency Management Agency (right) talk to Toni and Frank Davis about the Army's stockpile of mustard agent, plans for its disposal and measures in place to protect the workforce, the community, and the environment. The Aberdeen Chemical Agent Disposal Facility's project team works closely with Willits, as well as other federal, state and local emergency management agencies, to ensure that emergency planners, first responders and citizens are prepared to respond in the unlikely event of a chemical emergency at Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.

Redesigned PMCD Web site now available! Visit <http://www.pmcd.army.mil>

The U.S. Army Program Manager for Chemical Demilitarization is pleased to announce the availability of its redesigned Web site! Visit <http://www.pmcd.army.mil> to learn more about chemical weapons disposal in your community and across the country. The user-friendly site features up-to-date information on meetings, information booths and other events in your area where you can learn more about this important mission. "Our new and improved Web site offers the public round-the-clock availability to current information about chemical weapons disposal," said PMCD

Public Outreach and Information Chief Marilyn Daughdrill. "It also facilitates the great two-way communication we have established with our stakeholders over the years."

Don't have access to the Web?

The Edgewood Chemical Stockpile Outreach Office has a public access computer station you can use during regular business hours. No appointments are necessary, and the staff is available to help you find what you're looking for.

"Our new and improved Web site offers the public round-the-clock availability to current information about chemical weapons disposal."

*—Marilyn Daughdrill,
PMCD Public Outreach and Information Chief*

